



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: February 25, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar Project**

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper city officers to amend the existing contract with URS Corporation to complete additional pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$357,000.

Previous Directives:

- December 6, 2013 – City council authorized a master funding agreement with the Metropolitan Council to conduct environmental review and pre-project development activities for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- October 4, 2013 – City Council approved a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study and recommended the LPA to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Policy Plan.
- August 16, 2013 – City Council authorized a contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.
- June 25, 2013 – City Council established a project area and value capture district for streetcar financing.
- May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized a contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Ave corridor.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Feasibility Study.

Department Information:

Prepared by: Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, 673-3885
Charleen Zimmer, Project Manager, Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar
Environmental Assessment, 612-354-2101

Approved by: _____

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Anna Flintoft, Charleen Zimmer

Financial Impact

- None. Action is within the current project budget.

Community Impact

- City Goals: Jobs & Economic Vitality - Planes, trains and streetcars move goods and workers smartly; Strong commercial corridors, thriving business corners. Livable Communities, Healthy Lives - Equitable, integrated transit system.

Supporting Information

In May 2012, the City Council authorized an \$850,000 contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis study for transit improvements in the Nicollet-Central corridor. That study was completed in fall 2013, and the City Council approved a recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor on October 4, 2013 as modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue Bridge to cross the Mississippi River.

The next phase of study is to conduct an Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Review for the recommended modern streetcar project. In August 2013, the City Council authorized a \$350,000 contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the LPA anticipated from the alternatives analysis. That work is under way and being guided by a project management team that includes the City of Minneapolis and Metropolitan Council. The Project Management Team has identified additional engineering, cultural resources, traffic modeling, and public outreach work necessary to complete the Environmental Assessment, which comprise the scope of the recommended contract amendment for \$357,000.

This action is within the current project budget. The existing contract for \$1,200,000 is funded by a \$900,000 federal grant and \$300,000 City match. The recommended \$357,000 contract amendment is funded through Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar funds in the 2014 Public Works budget.